A. Amendment to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a polymeric platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending along a lateral side of said vehicle; said platform having an upper solid surface reinforced with transverse webs underneath generally perpendicular to said upper solid surface; and

a least first and second spaced apart polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection with said lateral side of said vehicle and said brackets having a lower end transversely extending and integrally connected with said platform and said brackets being co-molded therewith and wherein said brackets have a channel cross-sectional configuration with sidewalls continuous with said transverse webs of said platform.

2. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is a plastic.

3. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

4. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is a fiber reinforced plastic.

5. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is taken from the group of polyester and fiberglass fibers.

6. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is a long length of fiber.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 6, wherein said fiber is approximately 12[[++]] millimeters or greater in length.

8-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 1, [[8,]] wherein said platform has longitudinal webs angled with respect to said upper solid surface.

12. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said brackets have a triple channel cross-sectional configuration.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 1, [[12,]] wherein an inner channel juxtaposes two larger width outer channels of said brackets.

14. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 13, wherein said outer channels open toward said vehicle.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (ORIGINAL) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a long fiber reinforced plastic platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a side door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending generally along a lateral side of said vehicle, said platform having a generally upper solid surface reinforced by perpendicular transverse webs and angled longitudinal webs;

multiple long fiber-reinforced plastic polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection to said lateral side of said vehicle and a lower end transversely extended integrally connected with said platform and being co-molded therewith, said brackets being of a triple channel configuration and wherein said channels have lateral sides continuous with said transverse webs of said platform, and a middle channel having a smaller width than adjacent channels.

17. (ORIGINAL) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said fibers are glass fibers approximately 12[[++]] millimeters or more in length.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (NEW) A running board as described in claim 12 wherein said platform has a sidewall with an aperture to allow for drainage of precipitation adjacent said support bracket.

21. (NEW) A running board as described in claim 1 wherein said sidewalls of said bracket which form transverse webs of said platform have an increased thickness.